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LETTER DATED 5 OCTOBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 5 October 1999 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, concerning a fresh incursion into northern Iraq carried out by Turkish armed forces on 28 September 1999. The Minister requests you to do your utmost to urge the Turkish Government to comply with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law by withdrawing its armed forces from Iraq's territory forthwith.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 5 October 1999 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter dated 8 July 1999 addressed to you (S/1999/778, annex), I should like to call your attention to the fact that on 28 September 1999 units of the Turkish armed forces carried out a fresh incursion into northern Iraq. The strength of these units was estimated at 5,000 men, and they were accompanied by armoured vehicles and tanks and supported by fighter aircraft and helicopters. The Turkish armed forces that have been kept in the area following previous incursions also participated along with some 1,000 members of the Turkish village guard in the area north-east of Kani Masi. The incursion was also accompanied by a heavy bombardment in the Haftin area.

The incursion and the bombardment have caused serious losses in terms of lives and property to Iraqi citizens among our Kurdish people in the area, to say nothing of the damage done to public property.

The Government of Iraq protests in the strongest terms against this violation of its territory and airspace by the Turkish armed forces, and it calls upon the Turkish Government to withdraw its invading forces from Iraqi territory forthwith and to desist from any repetition of practices that are incompatible with relations of good neighbourliness and the principles of international law and of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Government of Iraq further rejects outright the pretexts advanced by Turkey to justify such incursions into northern Iraq, given that the alleged pursuit of elements that pose a threat to Turkish national security does not make it legitimate for Turkey to adopt policies that are entirely at odds with its declared commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq.

Turkey's distress is fundamentally due to the persistence of the anomalous situation that was created by the United States and the United Kingdom in the area in cooperation with the Government of Turkey itself.

The Government of Iraq reserves the right to seek compensation for the damage caused by these unlawful actions, it renews its call to the Government of Turkey to bring an immediate halt to operations that violate Iraq's sovereignty and place its security and integrity in great jeopardy, and it urges Turkey to give concrete expression to its professed respect for the norms of good neighbourliness between States.

As I express the hope that the United Nations will fulfil its responsibilities as stipulated in the Charter and will halt the constant

intimidation and aggression to which my country is being subjected, I request you to do your utmost to urge the Turkish Government to comply with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law by withdrawing its armed forces from Iraq's territory forthwith.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister
and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq